

has worked hard to make Bucks County a safer place. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Moorhead for his extraordinary accomplishments and outstanding service to his community.

HONORING OUR NATION'S IMMIGRANTS WITH MORE THAN JUST WORDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, this week New York City does what many in our country should be doing everyday. Across 7 days and more than 100 events, the Big Apple celebrates the culture and achievements of the countless numbers of immigrants—past and present—who have come to our great country.

They come from numerous continents, and countries, in a variety of hues, each with their own distinct histories, descendants of cultures that pre-date our society sometimes four or five times over. Despite the obstacles, they manage to quickly prove themselves and contribute to their communities in a number of ways. They and their children, their lives now woven into the fabric of this Nation, find success and across a number of fields including academia, business, law, music, sports and politics.

Contrary to the hateful and divisive anti-immigration rhetoric that so open poisons our public discussion of the issue, the vast majority of immigrants are not a drain on our government or on our economy. They are in our military, in the reserves and on the battlefield, some even paying the ultimate price for their sacrifice of service. They more than hold their own weight economically by paying, according to the non-partisan Immigration Policy Center (IPC), more than 300 billion in federal, state and local taxes. They fuel our economy as both laborers and employers, locally generating more than 229 billion in New York State alone. That is a figure that represents more than 22 percent of the State's overall GDP, even though they represent a small percentage of the overall population.

I see it every time I walk in my district, every day I am visiting another town or city in our vast land. That their contributions have and continue to positively shape our lives should not come as a surprise. What should be the ways that we continue to treat them, many of them like second-class citizens.

Congress must lead the way in honoring this country's immigrant history by rewarding their hard efforts and their faith in the American Dream. The fact that it can take up to 20 years for a mother to see her brother or her child of more than 21 years is shameful. It's disrespectful to the generations who laid the foundation for American democracy at home and abroad that you could have more than a quarter million people shut out from voting this November, despite increased fees and promises of improved service. And it's an outrage that those who work hard to provide a stepping stone for their children to succeed can be easily deported because notices to appear in court get lost in the mail or because of a long ago misdemeanor that wouldn't even land a citizen behind bars.

The debate over the millions of undocumented immigrants who reside here should not confuse our support of those that we have agreed to welcome with open arms. If we can't do right by those who follow the current broken system, what expectation should we have that anyone would or should follow a reformed one, no matter how liberal or conservative a plan that is devised?

Soaring food prices, unattainable affordable housing, stagnant job opportunities, substandard and unaffordable education—these are issues that every family living in this Nation is facing. Whether they have been here for five generations or one, whether they speak one language or two, or whether it was man's cruelty or economic misfortune that forced them here in the first place.

There are no easy answers or perfect solutions. Yet, if we can remember our past and remember the values that bind us all together, we can overcome these challenges and position this Nation for renewed success. The strength of any nation lies not just in the might of its military, but in the spirit and ingenuity of its people. All of its people.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITHTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to rise in honor of a proud and long-serving institution of my district—on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Smithtown Fire Department.

I am privileged to represent the Town of Smithtown, along the western part of New York's first congressional district. Since 1908, this historic town was home to a small but very effective fire department, "The Smithtown Volunteer Hook and Ladder Company". Toward the end of its first year in service, it acquired two fire trucks, a chemical engine, and a hook and ladder truck. This began a century of protecting the people of Smithtown during which their outstanding service record has been defined time and again by bravery and efficiency.

From those humble beginnings grew a proud volunteer fire department that has expanded to its current 168 committed members. The single old firehouse on Bellemeade Avenue has expanded to a much larger main fire station headquarters on Elm Avenue and two satellite stations located on Plymouth Boulevard and Plaisted Avenue that respond to emergencies and keep the township safe.

During the fire department's century of service, Long Island's booming population has intensified the demands on the Smithtown Fire Department members. Still, they remain an all-volunteer and highly skilled force which frequently proves itself capable of heroism and selfless dedication to our community.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me once again in thanking those firefighters who continue to protect our families and communities and to extend our deepest gratitude to volunteers, like those intrepid men and women of the Smithtown Fire Department, on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING MR. DALE JIEH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Dale Jieh the Congressional affairs chief at Taiwan's Embassy here in Washington.

Dale, like so many others at Taiwan's missions around the world, is among the hardest working diplomats in the world. Given Taiwan's unique position in the international community and the relentless efforts of China to shrink Taipei's diplomatic space, Taiwan's public officials face challenges that their counterparts from other countries do not, making their jobs more difficult.

Dale has been serving his country for nearly 20 years. His service has taken him to Belgium, Thailand, Chicago, and here to Washington, DC. And he will be leaving Washington soon for Taiwan's consulate in Kansas City.

Madam Speaker, I wish Dale and his family the best of luck in Kansas City.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BLUE SHOE PROJECT UPON ITS GRAMMY AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Blue Shoe Project, which recently won the best traditional blues album at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards Ceremony held on February 10, 2008. The Blue Shoe Project, dedicated to the preservation and advocacy of jazz music in the schools, deserves our congratulations for the Grammy Award and also for passing on the rich history of blues music to future generations.

A Colleyville, Texas based non-profit; the Blue Shoe Project was founded in 2005 by Jeff Dyson and his son, Michael Dyson. The Dyson's shared credit for recording the winning Grammy record, Last of the Great Mississippi Delta Bluesmen: Live in Dallas, performed by four legendary blues musicians: Henry James Townsend, Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins, Robert Lockwood, Jr. and David "Honeyboy" Edwards. The album was distributed by the Blue Shoe Project and Jeff and Michael served as executive producers.

The Blue Shoe Project helps spread the history, message and enjoyment of jazz to the schools and community at large. Jeff and Michael have dedicated themselves to the distribution of this uniquely American art form. To date, more than 20,000 students have experienced Blue Shoe Project presentations thus gaining countless followers of jazz music.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Blue Shoe Project. It is with great pride I offer my congratulations to the Blue Shoe Project for its deserved award and preservation of our nation's heritage and culture.